

BOOK REVIEWS

RADICAL SURGERY IN ADVANCED ABDOMINAL CANCER. By Alexander Brunschwig, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Chicago. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Price \$7.50.

This is a very interesting book covering case reports of one hundred advanced abdominal malignancies. The book is well illustrated and every page of printed matter is of extreme value. Many important points are stressed, such as, "In malignant conditions the basal metabolism rate may be elevated," "Co-incidental conditions such as cardiovascular pathology are not necessarily contra-indications to operation," "The present knowledge of the etiology, prevention and treatment of shock made extensive operation procedure less hazardous," "Glisson's capsule is a barrier to direct extension of carcinoma," "Many nodules in the liver are not necessarily metastatic carcinoma; many are fibromas, scerous angiomas or cysts."

The first chapter deals very effectively with the historical resume of the important advances in abdominal surgery.

The chapter on supportive treatment is brief and to the point.

This book may be used as a reference book for surgeons undertaking extensive surgery for the relief of abdominal malignancy. The technique of gastric resection and other extensive resections in the abdomen is covered thoroughly and the important points and dangers are well stressed. The necessity of teamwork, not only of the medical group but the groups treating shock, and the importance of multiple transfusion are covered in a very practical way.

The reviewer's only criticism of the book is of the title. The word "radical" these days has so many implications that it would seem to be much more appropriate to have some such title as "Extensive Surgery in Abdominal Cancer." This book is recommended to any surgeon doing abdominal resection, but many of the points stressed are helpful to those performing the ordinary surgery in the abdominal cavity.

One point which was not stressed in the book which undoubtedly will be covered in the next edition is the use of gelatin foam in the control of hemorrhage.

* * *

X-RAY DIFFRACTION STUDIES IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE. By Mona Spiegel-Adolf, M.D., Professor of Colloid Chemistry and Head of the Department of Colloid Chemistry, Temple University School of Medicine, and George C. Henny, M.S., M.D., Professor of Medical Physics and Head of the Department of Physics, Temple University School of Medicine. Published 1947. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York City. Price \$5.50.

This monograph of some 250 pages is an excellent summary of recent progress in biological research with x-ray diffraction equipment. The authors are attached to Temple University School of Medicine. After fairly brief introductory chapters on the theory and technique of x-ray diffraction,

there are adequate sections on the interpretation of diffraction patterns, and summaries of diffraction studies on the following materials: carbohydrates, amino-acids, proteins, muscle, fats, nerves and various skeletal structures. There is a list of references and a subject index.

There are 86 illustrations, most of them with excellent legends. The book is printed on excellent quality paper and has a very attractive cover. It can be recommended to students of molecular research, and to all biological workers who use or might use x-ray diffraction technique in molecular analysis.

* * *

MODERN DERMATOLOGY AND SYPHILOLOGY. By S. William Becker, M.D., Clinical Professor of Dermatology, University of Chicago, and Maximilian E. Obermayer, M.D., Clinical Professor and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, University of Southern California. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. 1947. Price \$18.00.

This book of 983 pages is a second edition, the original text having been published in 1940. The present edition is beautifully bound on glazed heavy paper which makes the book rather large and heavy. The subject matter, however, is presented in a clear-cut and concise manner.

The subjects to be discussed in each chapter are listed in outline form. Each chapter begins with an introductory discussion of the subject matter contained in the chapter. The authors term this "orientation" in which they give a brief explanation for including the diseases under discussion under one heading. This "orientation" includes the personal views of the authors and is very valuable for teaching purposes. The arrangement of the book is excellent throughout and can be recommended as a guide for the presentation of a course in dermatology for undergraduate students.

A careful perusal of its pages indicates that much of the material used emanates from the authors' own investigative work and clinical experience. The current literature on dermatology and syphilology is well covered up to 1945. Special articles pertaining to the subject presented in each chapter are listed at the end of the chapter. No attempt is made to give a complete bibliography.

Errors in spelling and wording were not observed although in Chapter 30 the term *Mycosis Fungoides* is obviously mistakenly used for the word "orientation."

Many of the chapters are excellent, especially those dealing with industrial dermatoses, dermatologic allergy, neurodermatitis, disturbances of pigmentation, diseases due to fungi, filterable viruses, insects, leprosy, and many others.

From the standpoint of postgraduate teaching the book has many of the faults to which textbooks are subject in general. It is no longer modern in a true sense by the time the work of assembling the subject matter for printing has been completed. An example of this is found in the chapter dealing with urticaria which, though very well done, makes